

**VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK WITH MULTIPLE TUNNELS
ASSOCIATED WITH ONE GROUP NAME
ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

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A method, network system and computer program product for establishing a server node in a virtual private network with a single tunnel definition and a single security policy for a plurality of tunnels associated with a group name. In one embodiment, a method comprises the step of configuring a group database in the server node. The group database in the server node comprises the group name and a list of members associated with the group name. The method further comprises configuring a rules database in the server node. The rules database associates the group name with a particular security policy. The method further comprises configuring a tunnel definition database in the server node. In the tunnel definition database, the remote ID is defined as the group name. In another embodiment of the present invention, the list of members associated with the group name comprises a non-contiguous list of ID types. In another embodiment of the present invention, the members associated with the group name are identified by any specified name.

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